Appointment of LPG Dealers in Uttar Pradesh

*274. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had published any advertisement last month for the appointment of LPG dealers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the districts in Uttar Pradesh for which no advertisement was published; and

(d) the reasons for not appointing any LPG dealers in these districts where common man faces hardships in getting LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketring Companies (OMCs) have advertised 144 new LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh on 7.9.2007 and the last date for receipt of applications was 19.10.2007.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that these 144 locations fall in 61 districts of Uttar Pradesh out of a total of 17 districts in the State. The districts in Uttar Pradesh for which no advertisement was published are:—

1. Azamgarh
2. Balia
3. Mau
4. Chitrakoot
5. Badaun
6. Aligarh
7. Bulandshahr
8. Etawah
9. Mathura

LPG distributorships are set up by OMCs at locations on commercial considerations based on technical evaluation/survey. OMCs have not advertised in these 9 districts as presently setting up of new LPG distributorship was not found to be feasible.

Oil Exploration in Mahanadi Basin

*275. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the running projects and pending proposals for oil and natural gas exploration in Orissa;

(b) whether there has been a proposal for setting up oil exploration on the bank of Mahanadi river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government has so far awarded 14 exploration blocks (one onland and thirteen offshore blocks) in Mahanadi basin in and around Orissa.